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Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No./Mail Date	6. ☐ Interview Sur Paper No./M 3), 7. ☐ Examiner's A	fail Date mendment/Comment statement of Reasons for Allowance
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Application/Control Number: 10/042,836

Art Unit: 2189

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office action has been issued in response to amendment filed 20 May 2005. Claims 27, 29, and 32-39 are pending. Applicants' argument s in light of the instant amendments to the claims have been carefully and respectfully considered, and they are persuasive. Accordingly, claims 27, 29, and 32-39 are allowed, and hereby renumbered 1-10, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27, 29, and 32-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to independent claims 27, 35, and 38, now renumbered 1, 6, and 9, respectively, taking claim 35 (6) as representative, but including the similar respective limitations in claims 27 (1) and 38 (9), performing the nested operation using the data item in response to the nested flag indication signifying to perform the nested operation, the nested operation including producing a predetermined sequence of a plurality of lookup words with a predetermined sequence of decoder fields of the plurality of unique decoder fields, wherein each of said produced plurality of lookup words includes the data item and a respective particular decoder field of the predetermined sequence of decoder fields, and performing a lookup operation in the associative memory using each of said produced plurality of lookup words to produce a plurality of lookup results corresponding to the data item with each of the predetermined sequence of decoder fields is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art of record. Claims 29, 32-34, 36-37, and 39, now

Application/Control Number: 10/042,836

Art Unit: 2189

renumbered 2, 3-5, 7-8, and 10, respectively, depend upon the instant claims and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth supra with respect to same.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian P. Chace whose telephone number is 571.272.4190. The examiner can normally be reached on MAXI FLEX.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on 571.272.4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christian P. Chace Primary Examiner Art Unit 2189